

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 12596 212046Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
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/077 W

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R 211736Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2659
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2918
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 12596

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, PO
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION APPROACH TO PORTUGAL'S EXPECTED EC
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 12410

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH DCM DECEMBER 21, DE KERGORLAY,
EC COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS,
COMMENTED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD RECOMMENDED TO THE MEMBER
STATES THAT THEY GIVE SOARES A "QUALIFIED YES" WHEN HE VISITS
EC CAPITALS IN FEBRUARY-MARCH 1977 SEEKING SUPPORT FOR
PORTUGAL'S APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP. ASKED TO
SPELL OUT WHAT IS MEANT BY A "QUALIFIED YES," DE KERGORLAY
RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD RULE OUT ANY SORT OF CONVENTIONAL
ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND WOULD MEAN AN ANSWER VERY MUCH
LIKE THE ONE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION IN ITS OPINION
ON THE GREEK APPLICATION: ACCESSION PRECEDED BY A LENGTHY
TRANSITION PERIOD, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE COMMUNITY AND
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 12596 212046Z

THE GOP TO WORK TOGETHER TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS WHICH
THE GOP WOULD FACE IN PREPARING ITSELF FOR COMMUNITY
MEMBERSHIP.

2. DE KERGORLAY SAID THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION HAS
BEEN TRANSMITTED TO COREPER, WHICH IS CHARGED WITH

COORDINATING THE MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES TO SOARES. THE
INITIAL IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT A
COREPER MEETING IN JANUARY PRIOR TO THE JANUARY 18 FOREIGN
MINISTERS COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS. HINTON

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